

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of converting a mixture of short and
2 long tobacco particles into a rod-like filler, comprising
3 the steps of:

4 segregating the short particles of the mixture
5 from the long particles;

6 advancing an elongated stream of segregated long
7 particles along a predetermined path; and

8 admitting into the path short particles for heterogeneous
9 distribution in the stream.

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